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## Current Opinion

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### THEOLOGICAL UNION IN MONTREAL

An interesting and important consolidation of the theological colleges at Montreal has reached its first stage. There have hitherto been four colleges, Congregational, Diocesan (Episcopal), Presbyterian, and Wesleyan, quite independent of one another, but with a slight affiliation with McGill University. Each of the colleges has offered the full course leading to the B.D. degree, conferred by the college not by the university. The affiliation with the university has meant little more than the opportunity for the theological students to take the Arts work in the university. Each of the colleges was small in the number of students and of instructors, and each of the instructors necessarily taught subjects outside his own specialty.

A most happy plan of co-operation has now been effected. The plan involves a Board of Governors who shall have general direction of the united undertaking, a Senate, consisting of ten governors and the professors, to have in charge all academic matters, and a Faculty which shall include all the professors of the four colleges. The four principals act in turn as dean for one year. The curriculum has been arranged with reference to the special abilities of each instructor. Each professor will lecture in his own college building, and as the buildings are all about the university campus, there will be no inconvenience. Each college will of course be self-governing and will take care of its own denominational instruction. It is remarkable, however, how few courses have been withdrawn from the general curriculum for this reason.

The next step will be the raising of funds for a general building. And one naturally thinks that the ultimate step must be the formation of a Theological Faculty of McGill University with provision for denominational hostels. McGill holds a royal charter, which leaves it perfectly free for any such development, when, in the judgment of the governors, it is deemed advisable. It is perhaps fortunate that the university has not yet organized a theological faculty, as it has now the opportunity of forming one which will be entirely above any denominational influence. How soon this may come about it is of course impossible to say, but the happy working of the new plan, which all confidently expect, will go far toward making such a consummation possible.